

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 14-17 are hereby amended. Claims 18-21 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-17 are pending examination.

The present application claims foreign priority benefits from Israeli Application No. 148994 filed April 4, 2002. Applicant requests acknowledgment of this claim for priority benefits and receipt of priority documents from the Examiner so that the record is clear. Form PCT/DO/EO/905 indicates that priority documents have been received by the USPTO.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12-15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bodicky (U.S. Pat. 4,333,455). Applicant respectfully submits that Bodicky does not disclose or suggest all elements of the claimed combinations.

For example, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein said multi-use entry-port element is configured such that a seal between the second end of the element and said flexible catheter-tube is achieved.” (Independent claim 14 recites similar language but with respect to a configuration of the catheter).

Bodicky does not teach or suggest that a seal between the second end of the entry-port element and said flexible catheter-tube is achieved. Bodicky does show that the second of the cannula element of Bodicky is tapered, but this taper is provided to aid in introduction into the body. (col. 7:36-38). There is nothing in Bodicky that discloses or suggests that this taper would form a seal with a catheter-tube inserted therethrough.

In fact, Bodicky suggests that there is not a seal formed by the tapered end. If the tapered end of Bodicky's "element" formed any seal, let alone a compression seal, then it would be impossible to flow the catheter into the passageway by the fluid flowing around and along the outer surface of the catheter. If the taper was small enough to form a seal, the catheter would stop moving as soon as it reached the taper, and would never pass therethrough into the vein. The seal would disrupt the flow, and the liquid around the catheter would subsequently be forced through the catheter instead of flowing the catheter through the tapered opening.

For at least this reason, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 2, 4-8, 12-13, 15, and 18 should all be allowable based at least on their dependency from allowable claims 1 and 14.

Along similar lines, claim 4 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the seal between the flexible catheter-tube and the multi-use entry-port element is achieved by means of a taper formed in said second end of said cannula which provides a compression lip seal between said cannula aperture and said catheter tube." As previously noted, the invention of Bodicky seems to indicate that the tube and element do not seal at the element's tapered end, let alone provide a compression seal that would make it even more difficult for fluid to flow the catheter therethrough. Thus, for at least this independent reason, claim 4 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 3, 19, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodicky in view of Feller et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,362,156). Feller,

AMISAR et al.
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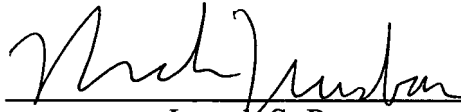
introduced to compensate for Bodicky's admitted failure to teach mounting lugs, does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Bodicky with respect to claim 1. Thus, claim 3 should be allowable based at least on its dependency from allowable claim 1.

Claims 9-11 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodicky in view of Gray et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,086,008). Gray, introduced to compensate for Bodicky's admitted failure to teach both : 1) a cylindrical housing and an apparatus for introduction and withdrawal of a catheter from a coiled configuration; and 2) a stiffener element, does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Bodicky with respect to claims 1 and 14. Thus, claims 9-11 and 16-17 should be allowable based at least on their dependency from allowable claims 1 and 14.

For at least the reasons presented herein, claims 1-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance

Respectfully submitted,

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